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Tsuki no Shippo
vol.4 ch.25

Tsuki no shippo
Chapter 25

HANZOU-SAMA...
HAA!
...NO!!

Shoo!
Shoo!
Go back to where you belong!
Stupid wolves!
It's all right now
What the
What's with all the blood?
Usagi!

WHAT HAPPENED? THAT SCREAM JUST NOW WAS...
MASTER?
NOSE-BLEED?
OH, SHE WAS RESCUED ..
Usagi
USAGI-SAMA IS BLEEDING!
It's just a nosebleed Nothing to get worried about
What's going on?
Is..
Is it the sage?
Yes.

I am Momochi Tanba, the master of southern Iga
Uh...
MASTER?
To have locked our ancestor in the mountains for such a long time...
I'm terribly sorry!

THE SAGE IS...
...MY ANCESTOR?
Egg-zeh-ter?
(ANCESTOR)
Why aren't you kneeling, Usagi!
The rest of you, too!
To have left our ancestor alone in the mountains, and then to have lied and said that this is a mountain of deaths so as to prevent people from getting close. For doing such an unfilial thing,
Please forgive me!
EH?

GREAT-GRANDPA GOT RID OF MR. SAGE?
THAT'S TOO MUCH!
スポッ
It wasn't me!
It was something that happened long before my generation!
I wasn't cast away...
I forsook the village...
...and entered the mountains.
Because if I were to remain the younger generations would be unable to take over the leadership
Hence I left the village...
Everyone in the village was kind... All of them tried to stop me.
But I forsook the village...

Please return to my house. No, return to Great Ancestor's home!
But, Great Ancestor is already more than 200 years old.
So in order to hide the fact that they were unable to stop our Great Ancestor from leaving, this rumor was created.
THAT'S RIGHT, MR. SAGE. COME BACK!
I reject!
...wish to continue to protect Iga from this mountain peak forever and ever....
MR. SAGE...
I...

GREAT-GRANDPA!
We'll respect Great Ancestor's wishes
I understand
Thank you
ISN'T IT FOR THE BEST IF WE DO WHAT MR. SAGE WANTS?
BUT, ISN'T HE OUR ANCESTOR?
Also, from now on, the name of this mountain,
will be changed from the Mountain of Deaths to Mountain of Life!

Great Ancestor, please take care
I will visit you again
I will
You called for me?
CAN I PLAY WITH THE BEARS AGAIN SOMETIME?
Sure.
I'M REALLY SORRY FOR HAVING BURNT YOUR MEDICINE..
It's alright!
YUUIRI WANTS TO THANK YOU, TOO!
I AM GREATLY THANKFUL TO YOU FOR TREATING MY LEG!
Usagi...

...
Thank you for coming to see me
Hey, Usagi, say goodbye properly!
ぽろ ぽろ
I . R-REALLY...
WANT TO GO BACK WITH YOU.
MR. SAGE...
..MUST BE VERY LONELY, LIVING HERE ALL ALONE...

PAT
PAT
Uuuu~
I. am not lonely
I still have the bears.
And in my heart.
Usagi will always be here with me
We are always together
When you came here, I thought someone had come to fetch me, at last.
Usagi..
...ALWAYS?

FETCH YOU?
Usagi is very similar to my mother
I was really happy. It was like my mother came to meet me.

My mother and Usagi are so alike, always full of energy and smiling so radiantly..
MR. SAGE...
Usagi... in the future, when you give birth to children, you must bring them here for me to see..
I WILL TRY MY BEST...

AFTER GIVING BIRTH TO HANZO-SAMA'S CHILDREN, I'LL COME AND VISIT MR. SAGE!
GOOd~~
Bye~~
BYE
BOTH GOEMON AND MR. SAGE HAVE GOT IT WRONG.
IT SHOULD BE "SEE YOU AGAIN", NOT "GOODBYE"..
See you again~~
SEE YOU AGAIN!
TAKE CARE!

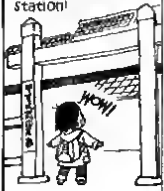
Goemon's leg seems to have healed fully
I'M IN MY BEST CONDITION ♪
Since you're in your best condition, please work hard
This is a letter of request
Eh!
MUST IT BE NOW?
EVEN THOUGH WE'RE APART, WE'LL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER.
WE CAN SEE THE VILLAGE!
THERE'S ONLY A LITTLE WAYS TO GO AFTER DESCENDING THE MOUNTAIN!
EVEN SO, WE ACTUALLY SPENT A WHOLE DAY TRAVELING
HE REALLY KNOWS HOW TO USE PEOPLE...
GOEMON, LET YUURI ACCOMPANY YOU...
OH YEAH,
YUURI HAS COMPLETED HER APPRENTICESHIP.

I... I HAVE?
EH
YUURI'S CONTRIBUTIONS DURING THESE FEW DAYS HAVE PROVED THAT YOU ARE READY.
YUURI IS NOW CAPABLE OF MAKING A NAME FOR HERSELF AS A KUNOICHI.
T-THANK YOU.
CONGRATULATIONS, YUURI!
That's great!
I... I MEAN, OF COURSE!
USAGI, BE CAREFUL ON YOUR WAY BACK TO HAMAMATSU.
AW
THEN, I'LL BE GOING NOW.
GOEMON-SAMA...
UH. OKAY
Yuuri!

Yuna Onee-san?
I have been looking for you!
YU... YUURI'S SISTER!
DO YOU KNOW WHO HANZO-SAMA'S BELOVED IS?
YUNA ONEE-SAN HAS ALSO BECOME ONE OF HANZO-SAMA'S BRIDE CANDIDATES
!!
E-EH?
I HAVE A JOB THAT NEEDS YUURI TO COOPERATE WITH ME!
YOU MUST COME WITH ME IMMEDIATELY!
THE SAME FACE AS YUURI.

Getting research notes part 2

This time's destination is the Shiga-Koga Ninjyutsu Yashiki, located a 20 minutes walk away from Konan station!



This was the residence of the Koga ninja head, Izumo Mori. It is a Japanese styled building with a straw roof. It was constructed during the Genroku era (1688~1703), a real ninja residence. The entrance fee is 500 yen. Although there weren't any kunoichis around, the lady tour guide kindly brought me around and explained how the various mechanisms worked.

A path behind the painting

WE MUST LIVE FOR THE SAKE OF OUR MISSIONS!
EVEN YUURI?
Do your best on your first mission!
I DON'T KNOW...
BESIDES, I HAVE ALREADY REJECTED THE MARRIAGE CONTRACT WITH HANZO-SAMA

ドキドキ
YUKI-CHAN!
BEFORE WE RETURN TO HAMAMATSU, CAN WE DROP BY AT HANZO-SAMA'S PLACE?
そわ
そわ
THAT MEANS THAT I'M THE ONLY ONE LEFT!
ドキドキ
Usagi, are you listening to me?
I can't hold back anymore...!
USAGI
ピタッ
Hanzo-sama will scold you if you make a detour!
I'LL RETURN TO HAMAMATSU...
I don't want him to get angry.
とぼ
とぼ
Be careful on your way backww
IT'LL BE ALRIGHT. THE QUICKER WE GET THERE, THE EARLIER WE CAN RETURN.
トコ
トコ

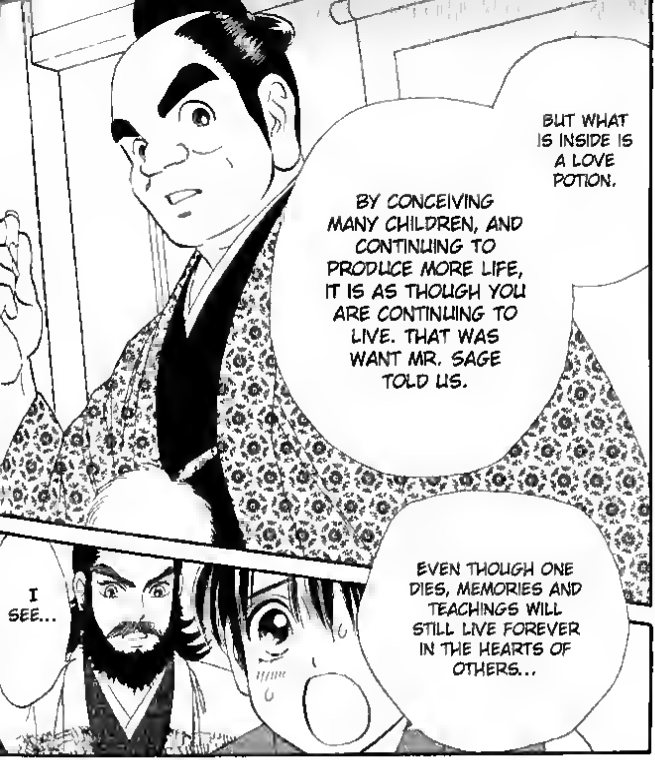
Tanba-sama!
Aiya ya!
BUT THERE ISN'T A NEED TO RUN SO FAST!
Mamezou, well said!
USA-SAMA, WAIT FOR ME...
ぼびゅーん
You're already at such an age
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
Hmm...
You really have terrible timing all the time..
Usagi just left for Hamamatsu.
IS USAGI STILL IN THE MOUNTAINS?
どてっ

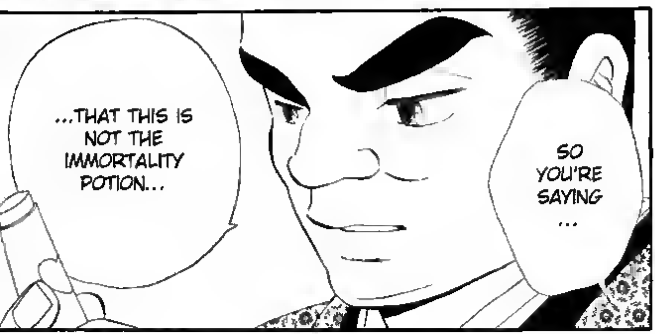
Oh.
Hanzou-sama,
Have you thought about having kids with Usagi?
!!?
You might still be able to catch up with her if you give chase now
THAT... THAT ISN'T NECESSARY.. I JUST NEED TO KNOW THAT SHE IS SAFE AND SOUND..
Oh No, I just wanted to ask
KIDS?
Which era of men do you belong to!
What relationship!
THIS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED ONLY AFTER GOING THROUGH A RELATIONSHIP AND MARRIAGE.

はひぃ ふひぃ
IT'S ONLY... A... LITTLE MORE... BEFORE WE REACH THE CASTLE...
THE QUICKER...
THAT I GET IEYASU-SAMA'S PERMISSION
USAGI, SHOULD WE TAKE A BREAK?
Huff~
Huff~
I... I will work hard.
IT'S ALL BECAUSE YOU RAN SO FAST!
2 DAYS LATER...
Huff~
EVEN THOUGH I TOOK A VERY BIG DETOUR, BUT..
THE SOONER I CAN RETURN TO IGA, TO WHERE HANZO-SAMA IS
Huff~
Huff~
USAGI..
CONTINUING WITH OUR LIVES
ARE YOU GOING TO TELL OUR LORD THAT I BURNT THE IMMORTALITY POTION?
AND NO MATTER IF WE'RE DEAD OR ALIVE, WE'LL ALWAYS BE IN EACH OTHERS HEARTS.
IT IS POSSIBLE TO TREAT PATIENTS BY GIVING THEM COURAGE,
MR. SAGE TAUGHT ME A LOT...

IT'S BETTER NOT TO HAVE THE IMMORTALITY POTION, DIDN'T MR. SAGE SAY SO, TOO?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY...
BUT...
I WON'T TELL HIM!
...
LOOK, WE CAN SEE THE CASTLE!
ALL SHOULD BE... FINE...
OH!
YUKIMARU, USAGI, IT MUST HAVE BEEN TOUGH!
MY LORD,
YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUN. THE POTION WILL NOT ESCAPE...

すとっ
I HAVE ALSO JUST RETURNED FROM AZUCHI YESTERDAY.
SO, WHERE IS THE POTION?
ゼイ ゼイ
どき どき
THIS... THIS IS IT!
Woon
SO THIS IS THE SECRET POTION THAT CAN MAKE ME IMMORTAL!
THE TWO OF YOU HAVE DONE VERY WELL!
E-ERM..
MY.. MY LORD, ACTU-ALLY...
ERM..
どき
THAT IS THE LONGEVITY POTION!
LONGEVITY POTION?


BUT WHAT IS INSIDE IS A LOVE POTION.
BY CONCEIVING MANY CHILDREN, AND CONTINUING TO PRODUCE MORE LIFE, IT IS AS THOUGH YOU ARE CONTINUING TO LIVE. THAT WAS WANT MR. SAGE TOLD US.
I SEE...
EVEN THOUGH ONE DIES, MEMORIES AND TEACHINGS WILL STILL LIVE FOREVER IN THE HEARTS OF OTHERS...


...THAT THIS IS NOT THE IMMORTALITY POTION...
SO YOU'RE SAYING ...

BUT, TO LIVE FOREVER IS...
WHAT I WANT IS THE IMMORTALITY POTION.
I CAN'T LET USAGI RETURN TO IGA WITH JUST THIS KIND OF MEDICINE.